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Office of the Mayor

Tutunjian Announces Receipt of Grant

For Immediate Release
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(February 24, 2004- TROY)- Mayor Harry Tutunjian announced Tuesday that the City of Troy has been awarded a grant by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Management Agency to purchase two pieces of equipment essential to everyday work in the Fire Department.

The grant, which totals more than \$53,000, will go towards purchasing a new compressor system, which is currently 18 years old, and frequently in need of costly repairs. The new compressor, which refills self-contained breathing apparatus, will cost approximately \$43,000.

The remainder of the grant will go to purchasing a new commercial washer extractor that will enable the Fire Department to clean and maintain bunker gear. The gear is expensive and proper maintenance is important to not only the safety of the firefighters, but the long life of the equipment as well. The cost of the washer is approximately \$15,000.

Recently through the help of state money from Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, the City has replaced much of its previously outdated equipment. Homeland Security grants for additional fire equipment only further the City's goal to provide employees with the best possible equipment.

"Grants like this are often overlooked in the public eye, but the ability for us to purchase this equipment at little cost to the City is vital," Tutunjian said. "It is not secret that in the past much of our equipment in Troy was in need of update. We have changed that, and this is one way we can improve our Fire Department even more."

Battalion Chief Michael McCarthy originally submitted the grant application on April 11, 2003.

The Homeland Security Grant covers 90 percent of the cost of the equipment, meaning Troy's 10 percent share equates to less than \$6,000.